



Welcome to the *Green Power News Update*. This is a summary of the stories that ran during **February, 2015**. New stories are added throughout the month to make sure you always know what is happening in our fast-changing industry. Check back often to see what's new!

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Green Power

[Western, SMUD partner to study Sacramento area infrastructure investment](#)

Western Area Power Administration and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District signed partnership agreements today to evaluate the feasibility of jointly developing 500-kilovolt transmission facilities in northern California.

The new agreements will enable Western and SMUD to initiate the environmental review process for the proposed 44-mile, 500-kV transmission line. If constructed, the project is expected to strengthen the local transmission grid and improve the energy import capability into the Sacramento area.

Source: Western Area Power Administration, 2/20/15

[Nominations open for 2015 Green Power Leadership Awards](#)

Deadline: April 17, 2015

The annual Green Power Leadership Awards are competitive awards that recognize outstanding commitments and achievements in the green power marketplace. EPA's Partner Awards recognize leading Green Power Partners and Communities that have helped further the green power market through their green power purchase or use of on-site renewable energy applications, overall green power strategy, and impact on the green power market. EPA's Supplier Awards highlight the accomplishments of green power suppliers that are innovators and leaders in the voluntary renewable energy market. EPA co-sponsors the Green Power Leadership Awards with the Center for Resource Solutions.

Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 2/23/15

[Download Presentation and Video from USDA-REAP Webinar](#)

We now have the slides and video available from our February 12, 2015 webinar, *USDA REAP Opportunities and How to Apply*.

Source: Windustry, 2/16/15

[Renewable Energy Optimization Tool offers screening options](#)

NREL's Renewable Energy Optimization (REopt) tool is an early screening tool that identifies and prioritizes renewable energy projects at a single site, or across a portfolio of sites in multiple cities, states, or countries, each with its own energy requirements, resources, goals, and constraints.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2/10/15

[FEMP offers renewables management training](#)

Renewable energy technology is so diverse and evolving so quickly that it can be difficult to determine if a resource is going to be the right fit for your power portfolio. Utility resource managers can gain a better understanding of the capabilities and constraints of different renewable technologies from a new on-demand training series from the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP).

This updated series of e-learning courses, focused on renewable energy technology applications for federal sites, will have much to offer utility professionals as well. Participants will learn how to evaluate and select the technologies that are most effective for their specific sites. Presentations will also cover integration of intermittent renewable energy into the grid. Each course offers 0.1 CEU (continuing education unit).

Source: Western's Energy Services Bulletin, 2/4/15

[Compare Solar Prices on 'EnergySage'](#)

Look to EnergySage, a new online solar marketplace, to find the best deal on home solar installation. The average price for a solar panel has plummeted more than 60 percent since 2010, and installation costs have fallen 40 percent during the same period. If you've been unable to go solar in the past, now is the time to reconsider.

Despite such increased affordability, many people remain unaware of the financing options available for home solar systems, and comparing those options can be confusing. Should you choose a solar loan, solar lease or power-purchase agreement, or buy the panels outright? Now, a new online tool called [EnergySage](#) can help clear the air. This one-stop shop has easy-to-understand financing comparisons, as well as the nation's first solar marketplace where installers compete for your business.

Source: Mother Earth News, 1/16/15

[Understanding Solar Power Claims: Best practices for hosting, leasing, and owning solar generation](#)

**Feb. 26, 2015
12-1 PM MST**

The new solar boom has brought with it increasing complexity around renewable energy claims. Because ownership of the environmental benefits is not always made clear, the potential for double claiming on the part of utilities, providers, and hosts has never been greater.

Join Robin Quarrier, CRS Chief Counsel, and Jenny Heeter, Energy Analyst at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Bryce Smith, Chief Executive Officer of OneEnergy Renewables for a look at the current state of the market and best practices for participants in the solar marketplace.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2/5/15

Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.

Reports and Studies

[Webinar of Colorado Springs solar garden available online](#)

Download the recorded webinar, "Structuring & Managing Solar Gardens in Colorado Springs: What Worked - What Didn't Work," presented by the Municipal Sustainability Forum, Feb. 11. Registration required.

Source: Municipal Sustainability Forum, 2/20/15

[Native American Wind Resource Atlas now available](#)

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Division of Energy and Minerals Development has developed the Native American Wind Resource Atlas providing wind energy resource maps for individual reservations in several states.

Source: US Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2/11/15

The Effect of State Policy Suites on the Development of Solar Markets

In the report [*The Effect of State Policy Suites on the Development of Solar Markets*](#) NREL analysts use statistical analysis and detailed case studies to describe why solar market policies are more successful in some states than others. Their findings indicate that while no standard formula for solar implementation exists, the combination of foundational policies and localized strategies can effectively drive solar photovoltaic (PV) installations in any state context.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2/10/15

Wind Wildlife meeting proceedings available online

The biennial Wind Wildlife Research Meeting provides an internationally recognized forum for researchers and wind-wildlife stakeholders to hear contributed papers, view research posters, and listen to panels that synthesize the most recent wind power-related wildlife research.

Source: National Wind Coordinating Collaborative, 2/9/15

NREL report analyzes U.S. voluntary green power market

Voluntary green power markets are those in which consumers and institutions voluntarily purchase renewable energy to match their electricity needs.

[*Status and Trends in the U.S. Voluntary Green Power Market*](#) surveys utilities, competitive suppliers, renewable energy certificate (REC) marketers, and, for the first time, the community choice aggregation market. This report finds that the voluntary market totaled 62 million megawatt-hours in 2013.

Approximately 5.4 million customers are purchasing green power. This report presents data and analysis on voluntary market sales and customer participation, products and premiums, green pricing marketing, and administrative expenses. The report also details trends in REC tracking systems, REC pricing in voluntary and compliance markets, community and crowd-funded solar, and interest in renewable energy by the information and communication technologies sector.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2/9/15

State of the Voluntary Green Power Market

On Tuesday, January 27, 2015, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm (EST), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership (GPP) hosted a webinar examining the state of the green power market within the United States.

This webinar focused primarily on the voluntary market, which is the market consumers and institutions use to voluntarily procure renewable energy for all or part of their electricity needs. The webinar reviewed:

- The various green power product options
- Where these products are available
- Resource and pricing information
- The most up-to-date statistics and trends in green power purchasing
- The emergence of new green power procurement options

Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 1/28/15

[Low Carbon Grid Study released](#)

California's electric sector can cut its carbon footprint in half by 2030 with minimal rate impact, minimal curtailment of renewable energy, and without compromising reliability.

The California 2030 Low Carbon Grid Study is a modeling effort that explores the ability of California's electricity system to cost-effectively support deep emissions reductions by the year 2030. Modeling is being performed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and additional analysis will be contributed by GE Energy Consulting and JBS Energy, Inc. in the second phase of the study. This work is supported by a diverse group of energy companies, trade associations, and foundations active in California and the rest of the Western Interconnection.

Source: California Low Carbon Grid, 2/5/15

[Bloomberg sustainable energy factbook now available](#)

For the last three years, the Sustainable Energy in America Factbook has documented the revolution transforming how the US produces, delivers, and consumes energy. In 2014, that revolution continued, and the long-term implications of these changes are coming into sharper focus.

To single out just a few tell-tale headlines from the hundreds of statistics presented in this report: over the 2007-14 period, US carbon emissions from the energy sector dropped 9%, US natural gas production rose 25%, and total US investment in clean energy (renewables and advanced grid, storage, and electrified transport technologies) totalled \$386bn.

This third edition of the Factbook presents the latest updates on those trends, with special emphasis on 2014 happenings.

Source: Bloomberg New Energy Finance, 2/5/15

[Agencies release draft plan for desert renewables development](#)

The draft Implementing Agreement for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan and the draft Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Energy Commission, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Regarding Collaboration and Partnership in Implementing the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan are now available.

Comments on the draft Implementing Agreement and Implementation MOU are due by **February 23, 2015**.

Source: Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, 1/29/15

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

[Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update](#)

Ten opportunities totaling over \$202 million in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Carbon Capture & Storage
- Coal

- Combined Heat & Power
- Department of Defense Energy
- Electricity & Transmission
- Environment
- Hydropower
- Multi-disciplinary Research

This list includes opportunities that have been released since February 10, 2015, as well as those expiring by March 9, 2015.

For more information on this funding opportunity update, the firm's capabilities in this area, or to request coverage of additional opportunities, visit the Van Ness Feldman [Knowledge Center](#) or contact the firm's Federal Funding Practice at 202-298-1800.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 2/18/15

Funding Opportunity Announcement: Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities (SPARC)

The U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative is pleased to release the funding opportunity announcement entitled Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities (SPARC).

The [SPARC funding opportunity](#) will establish a national recognition and technical assistance program for local governments—driving greater solar deployment and making it possible for even more American homes and businesses to access affordable and renewable solar energy to meet their electricity needs.

Funding recipients will establish and administer a national recognition program and also provide technical assistance and share best practices to communities seeking national recognition for cutting red tape and improving local solar market conditions.

Prior to submitting a full application for this opportunity, a brief, mandatory concept paper is due on March 5, 2015 at 5pm ET. See all [application dates](#).

Source: DOE EERE Sunshot Initiative, 2/9/15

February 2015—Opportunities and Upcoming Events

The Tribal Energy Program is pleased to share the following funding opportunities and upcoming events that may be of interest to tribes.

- **DOE REDI Initiative Grants**
Applications Due: March 4, 2015
Eligible Entities: Communities across the country, including the Climate Action Champions announced in December

Up to \$3.5 million in funding is available for communities, including tribes, to deploy smart grid tools and technologies to advance climate preparedness and resiliency of the electricity delivery infrastructure through the Resilient Electricity Delivery Infrastructure (REDI) Initiative.
- **Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities Funding Opportunity**
Applications Due: March 5, 2015
Eligible Entities: State, local, and tribal governments

Funding recipients will establish and administer a national recognition program and also provide technical assistance and share best practices with communities seeking national recognition for

cutting red tape and improving local solar market conditions.

- **[USDA Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Grants](#)**

Applications Due: April 30, 2015

Eligible Entities: Units of state, tribal, or local governments; instrumentalities of state, tribal, or local governments; institutions of higher education; rural electric cooperatives; public power entities, or councils, as defined in 16 U.S.C. 3451.

USDA's Rural Business Cooperative-Service Agency is accepting applications for Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement grants of \$20,000 or less to establish programs to assist agricultural producers and rural small businesses with evaluating the potential to incorporate renewable energy technologies into their operations.

- **[USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants](#)**

Applications Due: Ongoing

Eligible Entities: Nonprofits and Indian tribes serving rural areas. The areas to be served may not be located in cities or towns with a population in excess of 10,000, nor may they have a median household income of more than 100% of a state's nonmetropolitan median household income.

Assistance is available to rural communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to an emergency, or in which such decline is considered imminent. The emergency may include, but is not limited to, drought, earthquake, flood, tornado, hurricane, disease outbreak or chemical spill.

Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 2/4/15

[REAP Stakeholder Forum and Upcoming Events](#)

Presentations from last week's REAP National Stakeholder Forum can be accessed online. Please note that you will have to login with your email address or register to view the recording.

As an additional resource, the national office will be conducting REAP Round-Ups (training webinars) for the public and potential applicants. The REAP Round-Ups will be accessible via the web or telephone. The following REAP Round-Ups are scheduled as follows:

- **[REAP Round-Up #1 Energy Efficiency Improvements](#)**
Wednesday, February 18, 2015
2:00 PM Eastern Time
Dial In: Toll-Free (US & Canada): 888-669-0676
- **[REAP Round-Up #2 Renewable Energy Systems](#)**
Wednesday, March 11, 2015
2:00 PM Eastern Time
Dial In: Toll-Free (US & Canada): 888-669-0685
- **[REAP Round-Up #3 Project Finance \(Guaranteed Loans\)](#)**
Thursday, April 2, 2015
2:00 PM Eastern Time
Dial In: Toll-Free (US & Canada): 888-669-0676

Source: USDA Rural Energy for American Program, 2/11/15

[Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update](#)

Ten opportunities totaling over \$51 million in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Academic Programs
- Alternative & Renewable Energy
- Department of Defense Energy
- Environment
- Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Transportation
- Transportation & Infrastructure

Visit the [Van Ness Feldman Knowledge Center](#) for more information.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 2/10/13

USDA REAP announces success stories

The United States faces historic energy challenges to our economy, environment and national security.

Rural energy development, especially on-farm energy production, responds to these challenges through clean, low-carbon renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities, as this report documents.

The Farm Bill's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) is helping farmers and ranchers, other agriculture producers such as greenhouse growers, and rural small businesses throughout the country face and overcome these challenges.

Source: Department of Agriculture Rural Energy for American Program, 2/5/15

Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update

Eleven opportunities totaling over \$235 million in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Academic Programs
- Agriculture
- Alternative & Renewable Energy
- Carbon Capture & Storage
- Department of Defense Energy
- Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Transportation
- Wildlife, Conservation, & Fisheries

The list includes [opportunities](#) that have been released since Jan. 27, 2015, as well as those expiring by Feb. 23, 2015.

Source: Van Ness Feldman, 2/3/15

Find more [funding sources](#).